

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, children, Vermont's most precious resource, must be guaranteed their health, well-being and protection; and

WHEREAS, 60% of all substantiated child abuse incidents involved sexual (44%) and physical abuse (16%); and

WHEREAS, as articulated in Act One of 2009: Prevention is the most important and most often overlooked tool available to the state to fight sexual violence against children, and a coordinated statewide approach to stop abuse before it happens to provide safety and treatment for victims is needed and

WHEREAS, firm action to protect children who have been abused, coupled with prevention and early intervention programs and initiatives, such as Circle of Parents®, Good Beginnings, Early Essential Education, Kids on the Block Vermont, KidSafe, Commit to Kids, quality child care, child sexual abuse prevention programs, and the Nurturing Parenting Programs® significantly contribute to the reduction of child abuse in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, all forms of child abuse - sexual, physical, emotional - and neglect can lead to substance abuse and to violent behavior in children, teens and adults, which inevitably affects families, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, parents, social workers, health and mental health professionals, educators, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, home visitors, parent educators, domestic violence and rape crisis workers, hot line workers, mentors and other volunteers demonstrate a daily commitment to children and families who fall prey to violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 2nd day of April, A.D. 2013.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor